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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development
Expert Meeting on Electronic Commerce and Tourism
Geneva, 18-20 September 2000
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. Provisional agenda

1. Registration

2. Election of officers and adoption of the agenda

3. Electronic commerce and development

4. The impact of e-commerce on tourism : assessment and experiences

5. Change and disintegration in the online tourism market and implications for financial, transport and other destination support services

6. From producers to intermediary to infomediary to consumer: who benefits from the e-commerce revolution in tourism

7. Possible strategies for developing countries

8. Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

II. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

Item 1 - Registration

1. It is recommended that delegates to the Meeting register during the morning of the first day of the Meeting.

Item 2 - Election of officers and adoption of the agenda

2. The provisional agenda for the Expert Meeting is reproduced in section I. above. The provisional schedule of the three-day meeting is attached to the present document.

3. In February 2000, the tenth session of the UNCTAD Conference adopted the UNCTAD Plan of Action (TD/386). In its paragraph 148, the Plan calls upon UNCTAD *"to continue to assist developing countries and countries in transition in building up a service infrastructure in the areas of customs, transport, banking, insurance and tourism, with a view to improving their competitiveness in the international marketplace.* Also in paragraphs 156 and 157, relating to electronic commerce, it calls on UNCTAD to "*contribute to informing international debates on the developmental impact of global information networks addressing, in particular, developing countries' specific problems, such as information technology, infrastructure constraints and build-up of human resource capacity*".

4. The executive session of the Trade and Development Board decided on 12 May 2000 to convene, from 18 to 20 September 2000, an Expert Meeting on "Electronic Commerce and Tourism". In line with the mandate, the Meeting will have three substantive segments.

Item 3 - Electronic commerce and development

5. The discussions under this agenda item should address general issues concerning the "new economy" and electronic commerce, and their role in economic development. The discussions should provide a background for the specific deliberations that the Meeting would engage in under substantive items 4, 5, 6 and 7.

Item 4 - The impact of e-commerce on tourism: assessment and experiences

6. The discussions under the first substantive item will be devoted to the presentation by experts of their own experience as to how e-commerce has affected the performance of national tourism industries. Its effects on tourist receipts and arrivals will be reviewed as well as changes in the quality and components of the tourist product offer and package.

Item 5 - Change and disintegration in the online tourism market and implications for financial, transport and other destination support services

7. The discussion under the second substantive item will review the extent and importance of the change in relationships between different industry players caused by the advent of e-commerce in tourism. Particular attention will be given to new possibilities and challenges in the tourism sector, as well as to those that may be faced by banks, transporters, food and beverage producers and utilities, and sectoral or public organizations supporting and promoting a destination's export of tourism.

Item 6 - From producers to intermediary to infomediary to consumer: who benefits from the e-commerce revolution in tourism

8. The discussion under the third substantive item will be devoted to assessing how the new online tourism market structure rebalances the negotiating position and power in comparison with the pre-internet market. In the past, many tourism producers in developing countries have been unable to improve their take of revenues and profits through negotiating better contractual conditions with tour operators and international airlines. Have new possibilities arisen because of the online tourism? What are the key moves today of the market players that will be dominating the industry in several years' time?

Item 7 - Possible strategies for developing countries

9. Against the background of the previous three discussion items, the Expert Meeting will focus its attention on policy and practical recommendations directed to all parties involved in producing and exporting the tourism product in developing countries. The discussion should lead to the identification of activities that could be immediately implemented as well as to types and modes of support that could be requested from international organizations, in particular with regard to the situation in LDCs.

Item 8 - Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting

10. The Expert Meeting will adopt recommendations that will be assessed by member States before being submitted to the Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development in January 2001. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the Meeting.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.3/EM.7/2	Electronic commerce and tourism : New perspectives and challenges for developing countries
TD/B/COM.1/EM.6/2	International trade in tourism related services: Issues and options for developing countries

Schedule of the Meeting

Day 1 (18 September 2000)	Day 2 (19 September 2000)	Day 3 (20 September 2000)
(8.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.) Item 1 : Registration	*(8.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)* Item 4 : The impact of e-commerce on tourism : assessment and experiences	*(10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.)* Item 6 : From producers to intermediary to infomediary to consumer: who benefits from the e-commerce revolution in tourism
(3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.) Item 2 : Election of officers and adoption of the agenda Item 3: Electronic commerce and development	*(3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.)* Item 5 : Change and disintegration in the online tourism market and implications for financial, transport and other destination support services	*(3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.)* Item 7 : Possible strategies for developing countries Item 8 : Adoption of the outcome of the Meeting